SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE

PROCEEDINGS

: VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

RE: PAUL A. AHRENDT, R.N. CONSENT ORDER

:

License No. R020670,

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Licensee.

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WHEREAS, Paul A. Ahrendt, R.N. ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License number R020670; and

WHEREAS, said Licensee on or about January 22, 2007, admitted to the diversion of fentanyl by substitution and waste replacement from his employers North Central Heart, Avera Heart Hospital of South Dakota and Avera McKennen Hospital. Licensee's diversion of fentanyl was for his own use. Licensee admitted to using fentanyl at work while providing patient case. Licensee admitted to the diversion and use of fentanyl for the past one and one half to two years. Licensee has advised that he is taking steps to address his addiction; and

WHEREAS, Licensee has agreed that he would surrender his South Dakota nursing license; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board of Nursing ("the Board") has a statutory obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare set forth in SDCL §36-9,

including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners; and

WHEREAS, Licensee agrees that the matters under investigation would be of a nature that would constitute grounds for the discipline of his license to practice nursing in South Dakota under SDCL § 36-9-49; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee agrees that he enters into this Voluntary Surrender

Consent Order voluntarily and without duress or compulsion, in full understanding of the
legal consequences of this document and his rights; therefore,

ITS IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. That the Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order.
- 2. That the Licensee, on or about January 22, 2007, admitted to the diversion of fentanyl by substitution and waste replacement from his employers North Central Heart, Avera Heart Hospital of South Dakota and Avera McKennen Hospital. Licensee's diversion of fentanyl was for his own use. Licensee admitted to using fentanyl at work while providing patient case. Licensee admitted to the diversion and use of fentanyl for the past one and one half to two years. Licensee has advised that he is taking steps to address his addiction, and now intends to leave the profession of nursing as a registered nurse.
- 3. That the Licensee has been given an opportunity to discuss this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order with an attorney of Licensee's choice, and is aware of his right

to a hearing in this matter, and of his rights under the United States and South Dakota Constitutions, laws, rules and/or regulations. Licensee hereby voluntarily waives all such rights to a hearing, notice, appearance, or any other rights under said Constitutions, laws, rules and/or regulations. Licensee also agrees that the Board's Executive Secretary or his designee may present this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order to the Board and disclose to the Board all items of his investigation, including, but not limited to, any communications with Licensee.

- 4. That the Licensee's license to practice nursing in South Dakota and his privilege to practice nursing pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact shall be surrendered and the Board shall suspend said license for an indefinite period from the date of this Order. Licensee may apply to have his license reinstated for good cause shown.
- 5. That nothing in this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order should imply that the Licensee shall be reinstated. Licensee recognizes that the reinstatement terms, as well as the requirements for reinstatement, are at the sole discretion of the Board.
- 6. That if the Licensee requests reinstatement, Licensee has the burden of presenting information showing that Licensee's license should be reinstated.
- 7. That it is further stipulated and agreed that this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is being entered into voluntarily by the Licensee and without threats or

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coercion and is entered into after the Licensee has been given ample opportunity to consider these matters and to discuss this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order with an attorney of Licensee's choice and that the Licensee has a full understanding of the legal consequences of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order and of the Licensee's rights to a formal hearing on these matters, which rights are hereby waived by the signing of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order.

- 8. This action is reportable discipline and will be published in the Board's newsletter and posted on it's web site and reported into the HIPDB and NPDB data banks as required by law.
- 9. That the Board may enter an Order consistent with the terms of this Stipulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the foregoing Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is entered into and is respectfully submitted to the Board with the request that the Board adopt its terms as an Order of the Board in the above matter.

Dated this 21th day of March, 2007.

Paul A! Ahrendt, R.N., Licensee

The South Dakota Board of Nursing meeting on the 18th day of 1, 2007, (approved) (rejected) the attached Voluntary Surrender Consent Order (as written) (with the following modifications):

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is adopted, shown herein by the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 18th day of 1, 2007, by vote of 1/2 0.

Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director South Dakota Board of Nursing